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## ASBURY PARK CONFERENCE

THE FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the American Library Association will be held at Asbury Park, New Jersey, June 23-28, 1919. Headquarters will be at the New Monterey Hotel.

The policy of returning to a point where we met so recently is a new one, but there are reasons that seemed to make it not only justifiable but advisable. The high railroad rates seemed to make a trip to the Rockies or further west entirely out of the question; the important reports and business of the war service make it advisable to hold the meeting nearer the center of library population than any point west of the Mississippi would be; the Executive Board sought in vain for an adequate *resort* between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi (Mackinac being quite out of the question due to its distance from library centers), and few favor a mid-west *city* in summer; furthermore Asbury Park has proved by actual experience a very satisfactory place of meeting. By a combination of circumstances, moreover, the New Monterey was able to offer better rates than could ordinarily be expected in these days of high costs of a hotel of its standard of excellence.

New Monterey rates will be as follows: Two persons in a double room with double bed, \$4.00 each daily; two persons in a double room with twin beds, \$4.50 each daily; four persons occupying two double connection rooms with bath, \$5.50 each daily; two persons occupying a double

room with double bed and private bath, \$5.50 each daily, and two persons in a double room with twin beds and private bath, \$6.00 each daily.

The New Monterey can care comfortably for about 500, assuming that there will be about the usual amount of "doubling up." The other hotels and boarding houses which we used in 1916 will again be available. Rates have not yet been settled with all these, but they will for the most part be less than those of the New Monterey. An attempt will be made to accommodate all purses and so make it possible for a large number of the inadequately paid librarians and assistants to attend.

The general sessions will be held, as in 1916, in the Auditorium across the street from the New Monterey, and the meetings of the sections and affiliated societies in the New Monterey and adjacent hotels.

Those who attended the 1916 conference need no reminder of the charm of Asbury Park—the invigorating ocean air, the fine stretch of beach, the board walk, the fresh-water lakes so accessible for rowing and canoeing, the smooth auto roads, and the broad hotel porches so conducive to informal conferences and renewal of acquaintances.

Needless to say the New Jersey librarians are promising their help in every way possible to make the conference a success.

More definite information on hotel rates, travel, program and other matters will be given in a later issue.

## PRELIMINARY TRAVEL ANNOUNCEMENT

Asbury Park is very accessible by rail from all parts of the country, being reached from points west either via Philadelphia or New York City. There is a possibility of running a special train, or Pullmans through to the meeting place, but if such an arrangement is not provided for, a sin-

gle change of cars will be necessary.

North Asbury Park is the nearest station to the hotels which the A. L. A. will occupy, and is used jointly by the Pennsylvania railroad and the Central railroad of New Jersey.

Ordinarily a summer service from New

York City by steamer to Atlantic Highlands and thence by rail to Asbury Park is operated at frequent intervals, and this will probably be resumed next June. This makes a delightful variety and gives a good view of New York harbor and the Jersey shore. The boat trip takes about an hour, in sight of land all the way.

From Boston the Fall River boat to New York, and the Sandy Hook steamer, thence to Atlantic Highlands, is the most attractive route, leaving Boston Sunday evening and arriving at Asbury Park Monday forenoon.

It is planned to organize a special party from Chicago, but concerning rates and schedules to prevail in June no definite information can be offered at this time. The present railroad fare from Chicago to Asbury Park is \$29.32; Pullman charge, \$4.96 lower berth, \$3.96 upper.

It is not possible at present to ascertain whether any special excursion rates from distant points can be had. The present rate each way is about three cents a mile, rates from various points being now quoted as follows, including war tax:

From Cincinnati, \$24.15; Cleveland, \$16.98; Denver, \$63.04; Detroit, \$20.90; Kansas City, \$42.04; Omaha, \$44.44; St. Louis, \$33.42; St. Paul, \$41.01.

From New York and Boston the present cost of the trip one way (including war tax) is as follows:

From New York, \$1.75 via Pa. R. R.; \$1.62 via Central R. R. of New Jersey or by steamer and rail.

From Boston, \$7.27 via boat; \$9.17 via all rail N. Y. N. H. & H. and Pa. R. R.

Further information will be given in the May Bulletin.

### WHAT THEN?\*

CHARLES H. COMPTON, *Reference Librarian, Seattle Public Library*

Peace has come. The machinery of war will in due time be largely scrapped or adapted to other uses. In addition to material equipment, we shall have at our disposal new habits of thought, new methods of action. Shall we scrap these also or shall we adapt them to new needs? We could not scrap them if we would. What then?

This is the question I want to ask regarding library war service. It is a large question but it is interesting to try to answer it. I shall base this answer upon my experience of the past few months. It has been a limited experience, not out in the field but at headquarters. However, it has been the biggest experience I have ever had and perhaps it is only natural that I should wish to attempt to interpret it to you in terms of the future.

Library war service started as an idea in someone's mind, perhaps in a number of minds simultaneously. What is more interesting than to watch an idea originate and grow, become the common idea of a group or a profession, and take form in an organization which in turn is modified by coming into contact with the people it serves? Such an idea is library war service.

On April 6, 1917, many in the library profession as in other professions began to ask themselves what they could do to help win the war. It is significant of how blind we were to the opportunity at our very doors when we recall that the Executive Board some eighteen months ago considered seriously whether it was desirable for the American Library Association to hold its annual conference during war time. Nevertheless, when the Association met at Louisville, the idea of library war service had already been conceived and

\*Abridgment of an address before the Puget Sound Library Club, December 27, 1918, at Seattle, Washington. Printed in full in *Library Journal*, February, 1919.